

So who is to do the essential job of dealing with "our overheated sexual climate"? Why, who else but "the government, at various levels, will have to step in to help the parents," says Mr. Kristol. But who is the government?

For me the government — whether a Democrat or Republican is in the White House — appoints the administrators of the National Endowment of the Arts or the National Endowment of the Humanities, whose ideas of the arts and humanities and social sciences support the very culture Mr. Kristol abominates. I cannot envision a White House appointing and obtaining the confirmation of David Horowitz or Gertrude Himmelfarb to high posts in officially sponsored and financed culture. Government means the people who gave us the high art of crucifixes in urine and Robert Mapplethorpe's photos of sadomasochistic homoeroticism. Entrust President Clinton or his appointees to do something, to quote Mr. Kristol, "to lower the temperature of the sexual climate in which we live"? It would be like asking managers of massage parlors or homosexual bathhouses to establish community standards of decency.

Starting with 1964, the government introduced a so-called "welfare state" that has helped produce a culture in which 13-year-olds have babies, 15-year-olds kill each other, 17-year-olds die of AIDS, 18-year-olds get high school diplomas they can't read, 21-year-olds achieve high rank as moneyed drug lords and 30-year welfare mothers boast a welfare ancestry of three and four generations.

In the second volume of Lord Skidelsky's magisterial biography of John Maynard Keynes, the author writes that the great economist sought State intervention "to redress the failings of society not because he loved [the State] but because he saw it as the last resource." Well, looking back, Keynes was wrong and so I'm afraid is Mr. Kristol.

The last resource is the people. Let them organize boycotts against producers — the networks and the cable companies — and other supporters of the TV programs and tapes which do so much harm to our children. Freedom of speech also means freedom to set up picketlines against purveyors of the pedophilic sludge who proclaim their rights under the First Amendment. As for seeking the help of "government, at various levels"? Please, No.

Arnold Beichman, a research fellow at the Hoover Institution, is a columnist for The Washington Times.

## ARNOLD BEICHMAN

# Violence, sex and censors

What's happened to Irving Kristol?

I can't believe that the most influential figure in modern conservatism has become a believer in the benevolence, let alone the resources, of government to make reasonable moral decisions for society. But that's exactly the way I read his recent Wall Street Journal monthly lesson, "Sex, Violence and Videotape."

The topic he dealt with — the relationship between films and videotapes on the one hand and street violence and promiscuity on the other — is one which troubles parents, a handful of educators and legislators. Mr. Kristol's analysis of the problem was thoughtful and courageous. It runs counter to the powerful and pervasive "rap" counterculture that, as Mr. Kristol has noted, has long been in liberal left hands, especially in the academy.

Mr. Kristol cites studies and statements made in Britain and the United States that summed up, indicate there is a causal relationship between TV and videotapes (what the British call "video nasties") and violence and aggressive behavior by youth. Therefore, he recommends "some kind of controls over television (and tapes)," i.e., censorship.

"It is certainly true," he writes, "that any such controls will involve some limitations on the freedom of adults to enjoy the kind of entertainment they might prefer. But modest limits on adult liberties ought to be perfectly acceptable if they prevent thousands of our children from growing up into criminal adults."

Mr. Kristol insists, "Something must be done to lower the temperature of the sexual climate in which we live [and that] will of necessity limit the freedoms of adults to indulge their sexual fantasies." He says we can expect little help from the mainline churches, the schools that hand out condoms and the popular culture that he says "is busy making as much money as possible out of as much sex as possible."